

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Dept Library 1.9
Ex 892

MAY 25 1939

LOOKING AHEAD IN 4-H CLUB WORK

Broadcast by Reuben Brigham, Extension Service, Saturday, May 6, 1939, in the National 4-H Club Program, National Farm and Home Hour, by 104 stations associated with the National Broadcasting Co.

--ooo--

★ JUN 14 1939

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

I want to talk directly today to you boys and girls who are 4-H club members. Your record is a splendid one. Yet, fine and fruitful of results as this record has been there is a greater -- much greater -- future in store for each one of you and for 4-H club work.

There are over one and one-quarter million of you boys and girls enrolled today in 4-H clubs -- a magnificent army of achievement and hope. Side by side with the youth of our cities, you should strive to preserve our resources and to maintain the free democracy that is our heritage. (You are truly the engineers of tomorrow's opportunities.)

A few days ago I received a letter from a very dear friend. He has been all his life devoted to young people and to 4-H club members and has sought to help and encourage them. He says:

"There is nothing that I am more interested in than rural youth, yet it seems to me that I cannot formulate any definite plans for the betterment of conditions with our boys and girls who, after completing high school, can neither go to college nor get a job. Nothing seems to be left for them to do but hang around home, where very little money is to be made. Maybe they get a job in a filling station or a ten-cent store in their home town or rush to the cities which are already overcrowded with the unemployed. Certainly there must be an answer to the problem somewhere."

What is the answer? Frankly, I do not know. Let me read from another letter. It is from Edith Stauffer of Shamrock, Texas. Edith, a former 4-H club member, is now a young mother and a local 4-H club leader. She says:

"My husband and I live on the farm with Paul's father. Paul and Dad are in partnership in farming and stock raising. When we were married, six and one-half years ago, we built us a small one-room house, twelve by eighteen feet. Before our first baby, Barbara, arrived, we built on a living room with a basement under it; also, a bathroom and screened porch. We divided the room we first had into a bedroom and kitchen. Our bathroom was made modern by the addition of a toilet (with some gift money). A shower bath and a lavatory were made from an old dishpan, concrete, paint, and hard, patient work. I do my laundry in it, also. I have a gasoline motor washing machine. A hot water heater in the basement supplies hot water for washing and in the kitchen.

"Paul and I both enjoy working with flowers. We had some lovely ones this past year. This spring I sold enough dahlia bulbs to buy the upholstering for my living room furniture. I plan to do the labor myself, saving from \$15 to \$20.

"We had our first spring chicken on Easter Sunday. We have regular customers who take our chickens and eggs and extra vegetables in the summer.

(over)

5/6/39

"I am home food supply demonstrator for my club this year. I am doing a lot of food study. This past year our grocery bill was \$78.63 and we had an adequate diet the whole year.

"I do all of mine and the children's sewing and make Paul's pajamas and part of his underwear. I surely do enjoy sewing and, especially, for our children. (I save quite a lot, especially, on coats and hats.)

"I never expect to do anything great, but I know I can make a comfortable happy home with the help of one who has ideals like mine and that we can do our very best in rearing the two little girls that have been given us." This is the end of Edith's letter.

However, she does not give us the complete answer. We cannot live alone in these days. It is only through working with one's neighbors that some of our needs can be met. Schools, roads, churches, educational societies, democracy itself, cannot exist unless neighbors think together, work together, play together, and worship together.

Neither should cooperation stop with the next farm or at the county line. Today, we have the opportunity to master the national and international problems that affect every one of us. The agencies of our State and Federal Governments are ours to command and direct in meeting these problems. However, these agencies cannot by themselves do this job for us; they, too, need our cooperation. It is only through such cooperation that the really big problems of American agriculture, industry, and citizenship can be solved.

When we work this way -- first, as boys and girls, then, as men and women, we shall find our answers. We shall go forward.

* * * * *